

PUBLIC NOTICE

PERMIT APPLICATION: NRS 07.056

APPLICANT: US Army Corps of Engineers, Nashville District
Planning Branch (PM-P)
P.O. Box 1070
Nashville, TN 37202-1070
ATTN: Ms. Joy Broach
Phone: 615-736-7956

LOCATION: The proposed project is between Hiwassee River Miles (HRM) 10 (35°, 21', 13"N; 84°, 52', 00"W) and 18 (35°, 17', 52"N; 84°, 45', 45"W) in McMinn and Bradley Counties, Tennessee (USGS Calhoun and Charleston, Tennessee 7.5 Minute Series Quadrangles).

WATERSHED DESCRIPTION: The proposed project is in the Hiwassee River Watershed, Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 06020002. Hiwassee River's designated uses between HRM 0-34.4 are domestic water supply, industrial water supply, fish and aquatic life, recreation, livestock watering and wildlife, irrigation, and navigation. There are no stream postings for contact, fish tissue, or any other contaminant concerns in the proposed dredge or disposal sites between HRM 10-18. This river segment supports all designated uses except between approximately HRM 13 – 18, which is currently impaired because of coliform bacteria contamination. The surrounding land use is industrial, urban, residential, agriculture, forests, and wildlife management areas.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Proposed Channel Maintenance Dredging Between Hiwassee River Miles (HRM) 11.5-13.0 and HRM 16.5-17.5; and Open Water Disposal in the Back Chute of Ledford Island between HRM 11.6-12.1 (Chickamauga Lake). The purpose of this maintenance dredging work is to maintain a safe and open navigation channel and to restore an adequate navigational depth of a required 9 feet draft plus 2 feet of over-depth for safety and low winter pool fluctuations in the Hiwassee River.

A 2005 bathymetric survey found that shoaling was occurring between HRM 11.5-13.0; and a new site between HRM 16.5-17.5 creating potential navigation hazards. The navigation channel is approximately 150 feet wide. The channel grade elevation in feet mean sea level (EL) between HRM 0.0-16.0 is EL663.0; and between HRM 16.0-20.4 is EL664.0 which averages 11 feet below Chickamauga's winter minimum pool of EL 675.0.

The historical maintenance dredge site (HRM 11.5-13.0) has been dredged repeatedly, beginning in 1974 and again in 1980, and 1993-4. The dredged sediment was placed each time in the historic disposal site in the back chute of Ledford Island (HRM 11.6-12.1). The sediment is composed of silt, clay, very fine sand and decomposing plant material. Approximately 25,000 cubic yards of sediment between HRM 11.5-13.0; and 12,000 cubic yards of sediment between HRM 16.5-17.5 needs to be removed from the navigation channel. The sediment would be placed in open-water in the historic disposal area in the back chute of Ledford Island (HRM 11.6-12.1). A clamshell dredge would remove sediment from the proposed dredge sites and place it in a split-hulled dump scow

for open-water placement. This type of equipment is used because it can dump the dredged material in altogether and it then descends rapidly through the water column to the bottom; only a small amount of the material remains suspended, as described in Appendix C of the 1998 Inland Testing Manual (EPA 823-B-98-004).

In accordance with the Tennessee Antidegradation Statement (Rule 1200-4-3-.06), the division has determined that the proposed activity will not result in degradation to water quality.

The Corps and TVA conducted a sediment survey on September 8, 2005 between HRM 10 - 18. The purpose of this sediment survey was to determine if there was a sediment contamination concern within the study area. The Corps and TVA coordinated the sediment survey with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 4. The following constituents were measured: Percent Moisture, Total Organic Carbon, Particle Size, Metals (Total), Mercury (Total), Pesticides, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), Dioxins and Furans. Based on the survey results, TVA historical data, and use of threshold and probable effects concentrations (TEC and PEC) as a guide, data illustrate that the Hiwassee River sediment in the proposed dredge and disposal sites do not contain contaminants of concern in concentrations that would likely result in any adverse impacts to the biota.

PERMIT COORDINATOR: Robert Baker

No decision has been made whether to issue or deny this permit. The purpose of this notice is to inform interested parties of this permit application and to ask for comments and information necessary to determine possible impacts to water quality. Persons wishing to comment on the proposal are invited to submit written comments to the department. Written comments must be received within **thirty days of the date that this notice is posted**. Comments will become part of the record and will be considered in the final decision. The applicant's name and permit number should be referenced.

Interested persons may also request in writing that the department hold a public hearing on this application. The request must be filed within the comment period, indicate the interest of the person requesting it, the reasons that the hearing is warranted, and the water quality issues being raised. When there is sufficient public interest in water quality issues, the department will hold a public hearing.

The permit application, supporting documentation including detailed plans and maps, and related comments are available at the department's address for review and/or copying. The department's address is:

Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
Division of Water Pollution Control, Natural Resources Section
7th Floor L & C Annex
401 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37243

In deciding whether to issue or deny a permit, the department will consider all comments on record and the requirements of applicable federal and state laws. In making this decision, a determination will be made regarding the lost value of the resource compared to the value of any proposed mitigation. The department shall consider practicable

alternatives to the alteration. The department shall also consider loss of waters or habitat, diminishment in biological diversity, cumulative or secondary impacts to the water resource, and adverse impact to unique, high quality, or impaired waters.

Figure 1.
Vicinity and Location Map.

Proposed Dredge and Disposal Sites on the Hiwassee River.
 Maps show the dredging survey (hatched marks within the river) and location of sediment core and grab sampling sites collected on September 9, 2005.

